

Sure they froze our salaries, but let's not be bitter ...

The Gateway

Special Issue

... they froze our wages, too.

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Background to Trudeau's plan

by Bob Bettson

After a near defeat in 1972 Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau's Liberal government was in danger. It was June and the 1974 election campaign was in full swing. Pollsters cautiously predicted either a Conservative or Liberal minority government. But the Prime Minister would not give up without a fight. Speaking to 25,000 Liberal supporters in the largest rally of the campaign in cavernous Varsity stadium in Toronto, the PM got his loudest applause with a blistering attack on the Tories main campaign plank, a 90 day wage and price freeze followed by controls. "What is Bob Stanfield going to do? Well he's going to freeze your wages," shouted Mr. Trudeau. What happened to that declaration is well known. The Liberals were carried to a landslide victory by Canadians who feared the imposition of controls. Yet a scant 15 months later the Prime Minister went on national radio and television on October 13, 1975 to announce the imposition of the heaviest controls program since war time emergency measures. Labor Minister John Munro admitted publicly six months later that controls had been a contingency plan, even during the vehement Liberal campaign against the Conservative controls package in the 1974 election.

One thing is clear. Wage and price controls are not unprecedented in Canada, or other western liberal democracies. Economists are still arguing about the success or failure of the Nixon controls in slowing the rate of inflation in the US in the early 70's. Many economists say other factors were more responsible than controls for slowing inflation in the U.S. The degree of government intervention in the economy which characterizes controls is not unprecedented either. In the depression years the federal government intervened in many areas of provincial jurisdiction, because of the national economic crisis. The most convincing rationale offered by apologists for the present controls program is the national emergency presented by the spectre of galloping inflation, which would erode workers' earnings and cause huge risks for business.

In assessing the background to the present furor over the Canadian Labor Congress National day of protest, it is necessary to review some of the main events since the imposition of controls a year ago. Caught in the midst of a confusing and seemingly inconclusive deluge of viewpoints from the Anti-Inflation Board, government

spokesmen, labor spokesmen, business groups, and the media, the Canadian public has gradually moved from overwhelming support for controls to a mixture of half-hearted support and suspicion.

— **October 13, 1975** — The Prime Minister announces the program. It initially includes the federal government and all its employees, the 1500 largest companies in the country and their employees and all professional people. The act, passed by parliament after committee hearings, includes four parts: controls on prices and profit margins, controls on professional fees and incomes, controls on dividends and finally wage controls. All these would be administered by the Anti-Inflation Board (AIB) under the chairmanship of former Liberal cabinet minister Jean Luc Pepin. Reaction is swift to the announcement. Tory leader Bob Stanfield says he is vindicated by the controls, which he admits are stronger than the program proposed by the Tories in the 1974 election. Newfoundland premier Frank Moores announces Newfoundland will be the first province to endorse the controls. NDP premier Dave Barrett announced an immediate price freeze on many items, vowing to fight the federal program because it doesn't effectively deal with price control.

— **October 22, 1975** — Prime Minister Trudeau follows his national address by going on a nationwide promotional tour for the controls program. In a Saskatchewan speech to the Liberal party faithful he calls on all Canadians to join his "new crusade against inflation." Meanwhile, AIB chairman Jean

Luc Pepin has already engulfed the infant board in controversy with his often repeated comment that Canadians need, and should expect "rough justice" from the board in the fight against inflation.

— **October 31, 1975** — Riding on a groundswell of grassroots opposition to controls by Canadian workers, the Canadian Labor Congress commits \$500,000 to the initial battle against the controls legislation. A fighting statement from CLC president Joe Morris indicates that even the union moderates are up in arms. "This is one law I am prepared to break no matter what the cost," says the boss of two million organized Canadian workers. The Congress announces its alternative program for the Canadian economy which includes a massive home building program, increased pensions and measures to lower unemployment. At this point only the labor movement and the NDP are declared opponents of controls.

— **December 10, 1975** — The AIB announces it will begin monitoring the prices of 200 companies. Previously only the wage controls part of the program had been visible. Mr. Pepin announces controls will be broadened to include more businesses and their workers. Selected companies must notify the AIB 30 days before a price increase.

— **January, 1976** — Prime Minister Trudeau broadens his general crusade in favor of controls. In a year end interview with CTV he starts a national controversy by saying the free market system has failed in Canada, and only massive state intervention can solve our economic problems. His remarks

on the decline of free enterprise draw abuse from the left and the right. Business groups accuse the PM of leading the nation down the road to socialism. The CLC and the NDP attack him from the left saying his policies are leading to an authoritarian capitalist economy, run for the benefit of the rich and powerful.

— **February 16, 1976** — The Alberta government signs an agreement with the federal government clearing the way for controls for Alberta provincial employees. It is the fourth province to do so, joining New-

Projected million to march Oct. 14

On Thursday Oct. 14 an estimated one million or more Canadians will march in protest of the Trudeau government's anti-inflation program.

In most major centres across the country, the labor movement and other protestors will publicly voice their opposition to what they consider unfair controls and government cutbacks in social services.

Labor leaders say most major industries and services across the country will be shut down for the day.

In Edmonton, protestors will rally at Renfrew Park at 10 a.m.,

foundland, Quebec and Manitoba.

— **March, 1976** — The controversy over the AIB, and its implementation of controls, heats up. Government and labor spokesmen tour the country to whip up support for their positions. CLC president Morris says of AIB attempts to get workers to pay back wages paid over an AIB award: "The AIB is trying to intimidate workers." He charged that the government "has openly declared war on the trade union movement by imposing wage controls on all working people, making them scapegoats" for the economic failures of the Trudeau government. Labor minister John Munro lashes back in a bold speech to Canadian steelworkers: "Collective bargaining is still going on." Mr. Munro says the controls do not use labor as a scapegoat because labor stands the most to lose if galloping inflation continues. He defends the process behind the implementation of controls, charging that the CLC has hurt its cause by opposing controls all along the line, and not waiting to see if they are effective. The unions are impatient and 30,000 angry workers parade on parliament hill, on March 22, while inside the CLC presents its annual brief which criticizes the Trudeau government in the strongest terms it has ever used.

— **April 12, 1976** — The government announces new

cont'd p. 2

This is a special issue of *The Gateway* examining the federal government's anti-inflation program and the Oct. 14 day of protest against that program. Regular publication will resume Thurs. Oct. 14.

Background to Trudeau's plan continued from page 1

regulations which will plug some of the loopholes in the controls program. Amendments aimed at the working poor increase the maximum catch up hourly wage to \$3.50 or \$600 a year. Just a week before, the AIB refused petroleum company price hikes, allowing only a one cent a gallon increase. The government announces a program to reduce its own spending including: a freeze on MP's pay, tighter controls on civil service expenses, the abolition of Information Canada and the Company of Young

Canadians, lower outlays on manpower retraining and environmental control, a freeze on research grants, cancellation of the Opportunities for Youth program and an end to the indexing of family allowances to the cost of living. In replying to Tory charges of government overspending, Treasury minister Jean Chretien says: "If we got rid of every public servant, every soldier and every RCMP member we would still have a budget of \$36 billion, a reduction of only \$6 billion." There are 543,000 federal civil servants.

— **May, 1976** — The Canadian Labor Congress convention passes a new manifesto lambasting wage and price controls and calling for a re-ordering of Canadian society through a tri-party agreement between government, business and labor. The convention gives the executive discretionary power to call a national day of protest (or general strike) against the controls. "This is," said Dennis McDermott (United Automobile Workers chief) "a momentous day in organized labor, which warms the cockles of my heart."

— **July, 1976** — Two important developments: first, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce comes out against the controls,

indicating that business is chafing for the first time under price and profit controls. The second important announcement comes from the Supreme Court of Canada which announces the legislation setting up the AIB is constitutional rejecting a challenge that contended the federal government is intruding on provincial jurisdiction.

— **September, 1976** — Finance Minister Donald MacDonald bows to pressure from business and announces the loosening of profit controls in order to allow business expansion. Labor organizers are in full gear, getting ready for the CLC national day of protest, despite government sabre-rattling about retaliation against workers who are not on the job October 14. The federal government goes on the offensive, beginning a million dollar advertising campaign for the AIB. Mr. Trudeau says in a speech to party workers in Chatham, New Brunswick on April 23 that controls have been enacted "for the benefit of the small liberal common people, people who expect the government to intervene rarely and only if necessary.... We've prevented a hell of a lot of little people from losing their shorts."

The mood of the country on

the even of the CLC's national day of protest is difficult to read. The media have given exhaustive coverage to unions who refused to participate in the day of protest. Public opinion polls show support for controls have declined from a high point last fall.

How have controls worked? Prices have not fallen but the rate of increase is down. But this is due to a fall in food prices, and controls have not touched agricultural products. Profits were generally high in 1975 so labor can justifiably argue business has not been hit hard. And workers have been caught in a confusing bargaining situation where a collective agreement can be rolled back months later. And some workers have had to pay back the employer months later. Why should workers have their wages controlled when prices and profits are not being effectively limited, say labor leaders.

Meanwhile, the Canadian economy remains in bad shape. Growth has slowed to its lowest rate in years. Inflation is still 10 per cent. And 750,000 Canadians are unemployed. Prime Minister Trudeau must shift his attack to these problems or he might find himself out of a job in 1978.

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Ontario student federation votes support for protest

LONDON (CUP) - Ontario's student leaders have committed their organization to supporting and participating in the Canadian labour Congress (CLC) national day of protest, October 14.

A majority of the delegates

from 20 student unions at the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) conference here September 24 to 26 agreed OFS should be "involved" in the protest day and endorsed their executive's commitment to working with the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL).

The OFS executive will seat a representative on the OFL coordinating committee and will provide its member councils with "extensive information material" on labor's actions against the federal government's wage and price controls program.

Individual student unions are also expected to work with local labor councils in planning activities for the day, according to OFS chairperson Murray Miskin.

Student action

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 4 pm, Tory Building 14-6.

-meeting of all interested in helping to build the university contingent for the day of protest demonstration.

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 7 pm, SUB 142.

-worknight to make picket signs, banners etc.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7:30 pm, TB-12.

-teach-in on wage and price controls, sponsored by the Department of Political Science, and featuring Prof. Larry Pratt and Prof. Fred Engelman, both from that dept. From the Dept. of Economics there will be Profs. Tom Powrie and Craig Riddell.

Thursday, Oct. 14, 10 am.

-pre-parade rally at the quad (lawn west of CAB), where students and staff will gather to join the main demonstration.

What does Ricard taste like?

Easy!

Ricard tastes just like licor ...
... no, I guess I can't really say

just like ... but it *does* when it's straight (almost), but not in a ... um, say a RICORANGE, with orange juice and grenadine (just a *touch* of grenadine) ... of course, serve it with ice water ... no, Stanley, no *ice* — *ice water* ... and it does taste sort of like ... no, certainly not anything like *that*. A Parakeet is altogether something else. It's made with soda water — and green Crème de Menthe

and it doesn't taste *any-thing* like water (and it has to be *green* Crème de Menthe) ... But no matter what you serve it with, Ricard still tastes like ... well, like ... um ... well, Ricard tastes like what it is. A Pastis. What's a Pastis? Well, it's made in France ... and it

RICARD

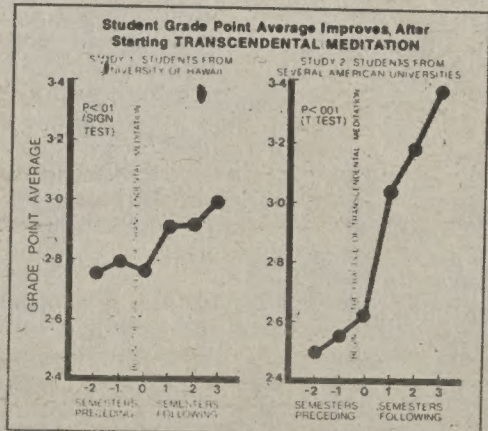
tastes like ...
well, like ...

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Economist views — Jenkins ...

Gateway conducted interviews with two economists on campus in an attempt to understand the background to the initiation of the wage and price controls and the economic theory behind anti-inflation programs, generally.

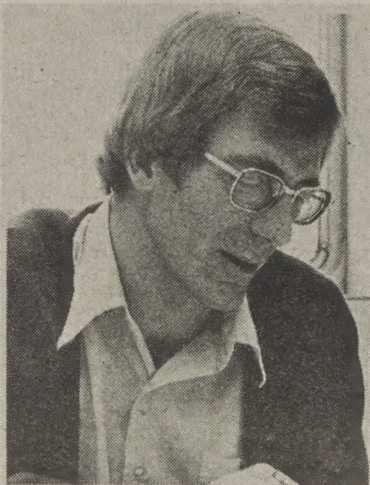
The first interview was conducted with Al Jenkins, an associate professor in the department of economics who teaches graduate macro-economics, industrial relations and labor economics.

GATEWAY: What happened in the pre-control economic environment in Canada that necessitated implementation of an anti-inflation program?

JENKINS: First you have to understand that, to a certain extent, every country in the western industrialized world is experiencing some inflation problems — most are trying to combat such problems with different programs.

For the background to our situation: the money supply in Canada and other countries was growing enormously in the period 1971/72/73. In Canada it was increasing 20 to 25 per cent per annum. Now, if real growth is only four to five per cent per annum, as it has been in Canada, and the growth in money is 20 per cent per annum, there has to be inflation.

GATEWAY: Why was Canada increasing its money supply so rapidly?



JENKINS: As foreign countries began to decrease the value of their currencies, Canadian prices were showing corresponding increases on foreign markets. The situation represented a very dangerous trade position, potentially, for Canada and the government reasoned that, if they kept increasing the money supply, the Canadian dollar would not increase in value and our trading position would be more stable. So, in a sense, the Bank of Canada was forced by world-trade pressures to expand the Canadian money supply.

The result was severe inflation and the government then was forced into the position of 'trying' to stop that inflation. Their decision was to implement controls which would possibly

change people's expectations and bring down salary projections and consequently wages. After trying a period of voluntary restraint, they went into mandatory controls.

GATEWAY: Is there any historical evidence to show controls work or don't work?

JENKINS: Wage and price controls have been implemented in Great Britain and the U.S. and what has generally happened is there has been tremendous problems with them. Once controls are repealed, inflation shoots up as much or more than if you'd never had the controls at all. There were theoretical reasons, however, to believe that there was an "inflationary psychology" among people and wage and price controls would control expectations. But in practice there's nothing to show expectations are dampened by the controls following the control period.

GATEWAY: What about people's expectations during the control period?

JENKINS: They are tempered somewhat but the inefficient allocation of resources in the economy during the control period more than outweighs that, I think. The government just lately realized they had forced this inefficient resource allocation over their first year of controls and relaxed the ban on corporate profits. They did that because there had been diminished investment in-

centive and basically that reduces efficiency and gives us all economic problems. And again, when wages go down, labor shortages in industries again may reduce efficiency.

I think it's simply impossible for the government to keep controls on a long-term basis because the inefficiency becomes crucial. The government is simply not able to assess every wage and every price within a market place — it's impossible.

GATEWAY: So you believe the controls, which Trudeau hedged about saying whether they would be temporary or permanent, are indeed going to be temporary?

JENKINS: I don't think there's any doubt about it. The original anti-inflation package includes not just wage and price controls — designed for short-term situations — but also a lot more in dealing with inflation. The other policies will, in the long-term, do a lot more to curb inflation than the controls themselves, I think.

GATEWAY: What are the long-term plans?

JENKINS: The first is that the Bank of Canada will not increase the money supply at "unreasonable rates." Last year the money supply increase dropped to about 10 per cent and

that will be very significant in slowing inflation.

The second thing is that, supposedly, the federal government is trying to exercise restraint in its own spending. I don't think resources are used as productively in the public sector as they are in the private sector and there must be some inflation resulting from that factor, though how much I couldn't say.

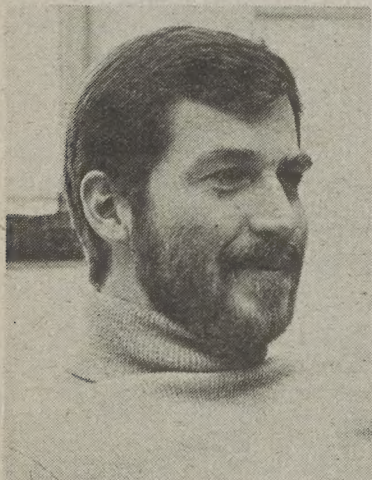
The third provision in anti-inflation policy is a structural policy — to revise existing labor laws, which currently favor certain unions at the expense of other workers. These revisions might include stricter controls on picketing activities, more stringent enforcement of laws at wildcat strikes, etc. These are very necessary as Canada is losing an increasing number of labor man-days — and it's already enormous — through strikes each year. That causes hardship for everyone in the economy.

Of course, to go with these labor law revisions, there are plans to institute a new set of anti-combines laws. I hope that these ones will be enforced, unlike the old ones.

These provisions, if properly implemented, will mean a great deal more in stopping inflation in Canada than the wage and price controls would hope to, I think.

... and McMillan

The second interview was conducted with Mel McMillan, also an associate professor in the economics department teaching public economics.



GATEWAY: Have wage and price controls been effective in controlling Canada's inflation?

MCMILLAN: Well, basically I think they're much maligned but probably serve some useful purpose in checking inflation. The controls were imposed after a period of very high wage settlements which, in 1974, shot up dramatically while at the same time, labor productivity in many sectors of industry declined.

Also, increases in the early seventies in the prices of many "essential" commodities were going up very rapidly — oil and gas prices because of the OPEC cartel, food prices from agriculture's demand for equitable wages, etc.

The money supply was also increasing rapidly — between 15 and 20 per cent per year — and real output was increasing much slower. That alone causes inflation and, coupled with the other economic factors of that time, produced rapid inflation.

GATEWAY: If money supply had been cut back sharply, instead of implementing wage and price controls, would infla-

tion rates have been reduced sharply?

MCMILLAN: Well, there was a lot of pressure by labor for cost-of-living increases in salaries. But if the government had allowed such increases and not increased the money supply and allowed for inflation, there would have been severe unemployment. In order to avoid more unemployment than we have been used to in the last few years, the government decided to allow inflation to go on while with these cost of living allowances — everybody thought they were getting more money but, in fact, they weren't. I'm not saying that consciously what happened is the Bank of Canada and the government wanted to let inflation go on keeping down unemployment but that's what happened, in any case.

GATEWAY: So that's how they decided to go with the controls — because they thought

traditional economic answers, such as a curbed money supply, would cause more severe hardships?

MCMILLAN: I think so. The government in 1975 said, "OK, the only thing this increased money supply is going to lead to is the inflationary spiral. We're going to have to cut back some on the money supply increase as well as implement some system of controls to affect an easier transition from an inflationary to a stable economy." Out of the two alternatives — to reduce the rate of growth of the money supply (and very likely lead to a lot of unemployment) or to institute wage and price controls and try to hold down the expectations of the powerful groups — big business and big labor — I think the controls were probably better for the lower-income people.

GATEWAY: You mean you

Continued to p. 5

TUITION FEES

If fees are still unpaid after October 15th a student's registration is subject to cancellation for non-payment of fees and the student to exclusion from classes.

Students in the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their fee assessment advice form.

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The Gateway

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editorial

What do you do when the federal government slaps you in the face? You slap right back. And that's what concerned Canadians will be doing on Oct. 14 — they'll be slapping back at the Trudeau government's hypocrisy and arrogance, using the only method the government will respond to.

People who are shocked by the "questionable legality" of the day of protest are either naive to an extreme or blind to the past year's actions of the federal government. Certainly Thursday's protest is not legal. Neither has it been or is it now legal for the federal government's Anti-Inflation Board (AIB) to break thousands upon thousands of legally-negotiated salary agreements. The argument is that the government is breaking laws for the good of the country — but what good is it if the government breaks the laws to freeze the wages and then allows corporate profits to go up in order to "stimulate" the economy (with the consequent rise in prices)? Who in the country benefits from that law breaking?

There are three questions involved with the entire aspect of the anti-inflation controls — 1) was the Trudeau government justified in instituting a major economic policy when he specifically campaigned on a platform against such a policy? 2) have the controls instituted by the Trudeau government done the job they were supposed to do? and 3) if there has been a serious infraction upon civil liberties of Canadians, are the people justified in responding in a manner that will force the government to acknowledge public feeling?

The answer to #1 is obvious, I think. Pierre Trudeau told the Canadian people in 1974 during his election campaign that he was against wage and price controls, that the Conservatives (who advocated controls) were out to screw the common man and would only allow the rich to get richer. Less than a year later Trudeau instituted the controls. Blatant hypocrisy — and I don't think that's the responsible government we need in our "Just Society."

The answer to #2 is no, the controls have not done the job they were supposed to do. Wages have been controlled to a large extent, it's true, but prices have not. The cost of living has not increased by the same amount it did in pre-control times but that is largely a result of declines in the cost of food, a commodity the controls does not even touch. But prices on materials supposedly under the control of the AIB have not been held down to the controlled wage levels, which means someone, somewhere is taking a slice in the pie they don't deserve. You tell me who that might be.

The answer to #3, in my opinion, is yes, we do have a right to show the federal government they are not free to dictate policy to the Canadian people especially when people have collectively voted not to adopt the policy. The only way to do that is to march off jobs, stop normal activities from occurring Oct. 14 and slap the government back with the only weapon we have.

Kevin Gillese

Poor student gives 2-bits

I'd just like to say my "2 bits" worth about the Oct. 14 day of protest and all the people who are planning to organize demonstrations or whatever.

Listen; who's worried? I'm not and my friends certainly aren't. Ah, school is going okay and the summer job is over and the car I'm planning on looks financially possible.

Poor? — I'm scratching every penny I can get every summer, cutting down on beer,

snacks, movies and clothes. People don't need to tell me how tough it is to make ends meet — I know.

Everyone's poor at one time or another but we all manage. Some manage better than others, that's all. Nothing more. I'm at university now so I can manage better in the future, just like anybody who strives towards self-improvement. It's all a matter of perseverance, isn't it?

Wage and price controls were set for a purpose — to fight

IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR SOMEONE TO
FIGHT ALL THIS BLOODY INFLATION!!



Lear basks in wanton sport

As flies to wanton boys, are we to th' Gods;

They kill us for their sport. (Lear, IV, i, 36-37)

So we lament with Gloucester and Reg Baskin. Let us not ask who are the boys and who are the flies! We know the sport is this new game called "wage and price controls"; but who is to decide which of the shepherds in white we are to flock after?

Walt Tyler would be ashamed of us all. We have taken his cherished implement to help the working person, the David to slay the entrepreneur Goliath, and instead turned this, our servant into our master.

We have allowed the CLC to drag into our midst their Trojan Horse, the Oct. 14th day of protest, and now, with mamma in her kerchief and I in my cap we all are expected to settle down for a long winter's nap. If we allow the biggest of big business, the CLC, to break out from our gift horse this shall surely be the winter of our discontent.

No one will dispute the fact that last winter was one of the mildest in our memory. Strikes and man hours lost were at a minimum, in this country which, in 1974, ranked among the top in the world in illegal union holidays. Why did this occur? Because we had no reason to strike. When your labour union settled for a contract giving you a 10.2% increase and you watched the rate of increase of the cost of living drop continuously to nearly a 6% increase per year, the average worker had no difficulty at all in discovering that he was better off than before.

Before; what is this Before? Yes, I do remember the days when unions settled after months of striking for 16% but then the cost of living increase was 12 and 13%.

The City chortled with delight when the bus drivers stayed off the roads for so long that cold winter of 73. They had it all figured out that after so many cold weeks of saving dollar after

dollar on this losing proposition (the ETS) they could finally give the union what they wanted and still have surplus left over from this profitable venture.

The standard anti-controls complaining has been that our wages have been rolled back while the prices have not. All good union members will shout in unison that the government should keep its nose out of economics as much as possible. While many economic factors have kept prices down, including fewer man hour lost to strikes and the general pressure of the controls program, only the AIB has been able to control wages. So we attack the AIB.

Both factors must be controlled to beat inflation.

I suggest that we do our part by taking our pennicillen to prevent the dreaded "clap" and all try to contribute in some worthwhile way to our country. Go to work, go to school on Oct 14th, and thank God we haven't a soft-spined PM. K. Feehan Law II

No value for current wages

With October 14th just around the corner, many thoughts have been going through my mind. Here I am at University, paying hard earned money for attending the biggest classes I have ever attended with less chances than ever for getting a job when I'm finished.

Bus drivers, who don't need grade 12, get paid for a two-month training program and start off at about \$11,000.00 a year. It'll take me four years to get through my Bachelor of Education degree, paying my own tuition and room and board on top of "lost wages" I could have earned while I could have been working. Some how, I feel like I'm a fool.

The arguments go that "I'll be doing something relevant and getting enjoyment from my work, etc.", so I should "expect" to make less money. So, if I'm expected to teach people to read, write, think, etc. or if I was going to be a Social Worker and deal with human suffering, I'm worth less than a janitor or a bus driver who are paid more.

Another argument goes that "I'll have an education." Ha! What the fuck good does discussing the tragedies in Shakespeare over tea do me when I'm collec-

ting welfare because there isn't enough work to go around?

Well, I'm halfway through my degree so I reckon I'd better finish it off. But it makes me sick to think that I'm being penalized for my education. The rich in this country have held control of the status quo for too long. The unions want to catapult their rank and file out of the working class and into the middle class. The people in the "helping professions" are being squeezed out in the process.

While I'm basically in agreement for a fair shake for the working person, I think the greediness that we've been witnessing right now has to stop. If people are to be paid good wages, it should be for the social significance of their work. It shouldn't be because one union has more muscle than another.

Richard Desjardins
Education

Labor's reaction

Labor has been organizing throughout the summer and fall in preparation for a massive demonstration Oct. 14 against the federal government's anti-inflation program. Through interviews and statements made at labor meetings, labor's reasons for staging the protest and their feelings towards the government's controls programs become apparent.

by Tom Baker



David Leadbeater

Alderman for city of Edmonton

"The current strike of CUPE 52 is an example of the effect of the wage control program on collective bargaining. The city refuses to bargain in good faith,

hiding instead behind the AIB regulations. The *Edmonton Journal*, which isn't particularly known for its interest in truth, has tried to turn the public against this legal strike.

"We are all in favour of ending inflation, but worker's wages or in fact government expenditures are not the real cause of inflation. It is no wonder that wage controls and government cutbacks have not stopped inflation: Corporate control of the economy is the main culprit. The profiteering promoted by the CMHC and the provincial government has increased speculation and inflated housing costs.

"Oct. 14 is the beginning of greater political involvement of trade unionists and all working people."



Warren Carrigata

Publicity director of Alberta Federation of Labour's Day of Protest. Editor of *AFL newspaper: Alberta Labour*.

"It is important to march on Oct. 14 or if you are unable to get off work, to at least donate a day's pay to the Day of Protest fund. Masses of people in the streets will be a graphic illustration of the seriousness of Canadian opposition to the controls.

"Students have an obvious interest in joining the actions. The unemployment and increased tuition fees you now face and the wage controls you will face in the summer and upon graduation are results of government attacks. Students, of

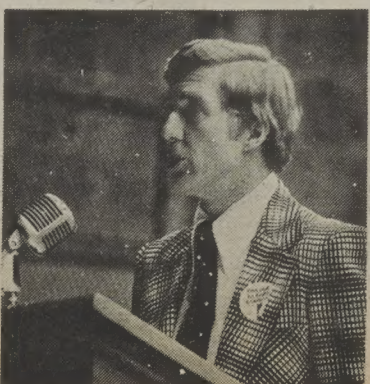
course, are also consumers and can easily recognize the absence of any price controls. We hope that students will organize themselves against the wage control program. I imagine this will include the boycott of classes and the formation of a student contingent in the march.

Gene Mitchell

Vice-president Alberta Federation of Labour. Provincial organizer for Oct. 14 Day of Protest.

"Under the wage control program, 2 million workers have had their negotiated wages rolled back and as of mid-August \$156 million in wages has been saved by the corporations. By the end of the year it is projected that 2.8 million people will lose \$500 million in wages.

"We are serious about defeating this legislature; we want it removed from the books immediately. Support for our protest is growing every day — both from within and outside of the labour movement. If everyone who is opposed to Trudeau's program is on the streets Oct. 14, the protest will be a big success."

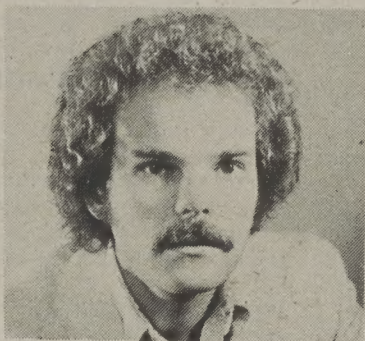


John MacInnis

Member of Prov. Exec. of NDP. Former exec. assistant to Grant Notley.

"The Anti-Inflation Board's direct assault on our standard of living has encouraged a common cause of the NDP and the labour movement. A successful Oct. 14 protest will cause loud moanings, all the way from the board rooms of Bay Street to the front benches of the Alberta legislature.

"Some amazing information has been revealed by Ed. Broadbent's Anti-Illusion Board. Corporate profits are soaring at the same time as wages stagnate under the control program. For example in the first six months of this year, Calgary Power enjoyed a 33% profit increase, Alberta Trunk Line 55%, and Carmen Developers of Calgary 300% over the same period last year.



Don Tapscott

Member of Parade Committee for Oct. 14. Head Marshall of march.

"In my opinion, it has become clear that these controls are a fraud: they were not designed to stop inflation and control rising prices at all.

"We are entering a period in which the standard of living of working people — the vast majority in our society — is being seriously eroded as a result of the government assault.

"There are several points about the controls that should be noted; they increase the wage gap between men and women, they make it illegal to escape poverty, and they are anti-democratic. The nullify the democratic right to collective bargaining.

"I feel that Oct. 14 will see one of the most truly democratic events in Canadian history; millions of working people standing up to assert their rights, their dignity and their humanity against an authoritarian and arbitrary government that is acting against the interests of the majority of Canadians.

"Over the past year our numbers have been growing. On March 22 we took a big step when tens of thousands of workers demonstrated against the legislation. These actions had a great impact on millions of people and took our fight to a new stage. Oct. 14 is the next step. It will enable everyone in the country to act together, to gain confidence and strength in unity."



Lynda Little

Metro NDP coordinator for Oct. 14. Non-union support coordinator for AFL Day of Protest Committee.

"For Oct. 14 to be a real success, all groups affected by the government's policies of cutbacks in social service spending, must unite with the labour movement on the streets. This includes students, women's groups, native associations, pensioners, and welfare groups.

"Because of the positions many student unions have taken and for other reasons, the majority of students at this time probably do not support the Oct. 14 protest. There needs to be real education around this. If students understand the issues, they will support the action. Oct. 14 is just the beginning of this process."

McMillan from page 3

think there has been greater redistribution of wealth by implementation of controls?

MCMILLAN: No, I mean that the people who would have been hardest hit by severe unemployment would be lower-income groups, non-unionized labor, the least powerful people in the country.

GATEWAY: And so you think controls have worked?

MCMILLAN: Basically I have no faith in permanent controls and very little faith in temporary controls. But the government wanted to change people's expectations and it's obvious that that had to be done. A survey just recently showed that something around 60 per cent of people surveyed thought the wage and price control had had some effect. And I think the implication there is that people's expectations have been modified somewhat, so in that sense

controls have been good.

Canada went through the Second World War with reasonable success under controls. Basically the problem with controls is a government is not capable of pricing decisions in an economy and so they can't handle controls on any more than a temporary basis. So, Trudeau is not being definite about the period for controls and I don't

blame him. I hope the controls won't go on much longer and don't think they can be anything but temporary. But already we've seen modifications in prices and wages, inflation is down and employment is beginning to climb again. Trudeau is just caught in the position where he has to do something about inflation yet can't afford to make definite statements and raise people's expectation levels again. It's a touchy situation.

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FORUM

Wednesday, October 13
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Author pulls no punches

by Tom Baker

Gonick, Cy. *Inflation and Wage Controls*, A Canadian Dimension Publication, \$1.95, February 1976, 145 pages.

Cy Gonick's recently published book is an easy to read and valuable resource source for anyone who wants to understand the background to the wage controls. The author being a self-confessed leftist economist, pulls no punches in his critique of Trudeau's approach to the current economic crisis.

Gonick takes on the task of analyzing the mysterious, elusive phenomenon of inflation. He argues that the inflationary spiral, a distinct feature of the past few years, is a product of three decades of faithful applica-

tion of Keynesian economics. Modern capitalist governments try to cushion the economic recessions of the business cycle by deficit financing of government expenditures and encouraging money expansion and credit. This tends to hyperinflate the economy.

In an extended section of the book, Gonick documents the monopolization of capital that has taken place. In Canada, apparently, 200 giant corporations virtually control the entire economy. Even amongst these few corporations, interlocking directorships are rampant. The multinational character of these oligopolies, he maintains, makes it almost impossible for national governments to regulate their economies. Now the business cycle is one single

international cycle. All capitalist economies tend to go into recessions at the same time.

Because of the monopoly control of the economy, prices tend to rise regardless of the stage of the business cycle. This is necessary for the corporations. Even when demand is low and an excess of products exists, prices still increase so that profits can be maintained.

Due to the vital role of these corporations to the capitalist economy, governments feel obliged to protect that at all costs. They will offer forgivable loans, purchase products at inflated prices and even institute wage controls in order to save their corporate friends.

While seeking monopoly control as the main cause of inflation, Gonick also discussed other elements of the economic crisis which he describes as 'stagflation.' The relative economic and military weakening of the United States vis a vis Western Europe and Japan is seen as a destabilizing factor for the international economy. In a briefer fashion he describes the effects of the so called oil crisis and the food crisis. One chapter provides an interesting sociological analysis of the changing character of the workers' movement. A new military and political attitude is appearing, which is a big factor for those who control the economy.

This book details the past 5 years in Canada. The inflationary outbursts of 1973-74 came at a time that most workers were locked into 2 or 3 year contracts. In late 1974 and early 1975 these contracts expired, and labour launched a vigorous catchup campaign to compensate for past losses. From 1971-1974 corporate profits increased by 111%, while wages and salaries increased by only 25%. In 1975 the labour movement was not able to even catchup to its 1971 share of the national income. In fall 1975, as the large public workers contracts became due, Trudeau panicked. In order to maintain profits of the past period an economic emergency was declared.

The wage control program has more than adequately done

its job. Gonick displays some almost unbelievable statistics showing the enormous increase of corporate profits. While the price of food (which the AIB does not control) has temporarily stabilized, all other prices are soaring at almost the same rate as before. Unemployment is greater — 3/4 million out of work. Any downturn in the rate of inflation is a result of the international economic crisis which has belatedly hit Canada; and not any efforts of the AIB.

The author analyzes the concurrent cutbacks in social services like education, health, daycare, unemployment in-

surance, and children's allowances. He maintains that the government has initiated this in order to save money that can be diverted into its real priorities like Syncrude, Mackenzie Valley pipeline, Mirabel airport, James Bay Project and of course military expenditures.

The book closes with a call for a completely restructured economy that is not based on profits, but the needs of people.

While not everyone will be able to agree with every idea presented in this work, it is must reading for all who want to understand what is happening to them.

NASA gives no support for protest

Oct. 14 will not be a day of protest for the 2600 members of the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA) according to association president, Mr. Horace Easy.

Union members and all those dissatisfied with wage and price controls are being urged to join a one-day national strike on October 14. U of A's SU Executive decided not to support the day of protest because of the "Questionable legality" and the "detrimental effect on the Canadian economy."

"I think for the atmosphere of this university that I agree that they (SU Executive) are right," commented Mr. Easy "and I also think that the radical people from

the outside impress people more than they should."

NASA members may join in the day of protest "according to conscience" said Easy but the association cannot protect those members in the event of subsequent dismissal. "We've left that up to their own conscience but it's not a grievable item. We have a contract and we'll live up to it," he said.

"Personally," stated Easy, "I think the strike is too late. I don't think it will do anything."

Easy did not expect many members to actually walk off the job on Oct. 14. "Maybe two, maybe three, that's all. I don't anticipate 1 per cent. I don't think one per cent will participate in it."

Student support McMaster says yes

The Student Representative Assembly (SRA) of the McMaster Students' Union voted by a wide margin to support the CLC day of protest against wage and price controls, at its meeting last Monday.

The final vote was sixteen to four, with four abstentions, to approve the OFS and NUS recommendation that students take part in the October 14 protest.

Executive Committee member Peter Hutton called for McMaster's participation in the protest to be coordinated through the National Student Day Committee, a body recently set up to organize activities for the Students Day due November 9. Hutton asked that activities on

campus be used as the focal point of discussion on the Day of Protest.

Some SRA members voiced concern that approval of the Day of Protest amounted to approval of the policies of certain federal and provincial political parties, and that participation in the protest implied support of all actions taken by the sponsoring Canadian Labour Congress.

However, MSU President and OFS Executive member, Phil Moore, spoke in favour of the motion, pointing out reports that the Anti-Inflation program has failed and has in fact deceived the Canadian people. He also said that students are directly affected and are among the worst hit by the regulations of the Government program.



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News analysis ...

Controls hit students hard

by Gary Watson

The U of A Students' Union has recently announced its refusal to support the Oct. 14th day of protest. Several student bodies in Alberta and throughout the country have made similar decisions. Some have argued that the wage control programme does not affect students while others have expressed apprehension about participating in a potentially illegal act. This latter argument, though, completely evades and distorts the purpose of the Oct. 14th demonstration. Any decision to support the CLC should be made on the basis of whether or not the controls have negatively affected the majority of post-secondary students. After one year of controls, where do students stand? What has happened to post-secondary education since Thanksgiving Day, 1975?

Cutbacks in spending for social services are an integral part of the wage control programme. It is impossible to consider the one without the other. Post-secondary institutions have suffered heavily. In the past year tuition fees have been increased by 10-25% in most provinces and further increases are expected next year. In addition to an across-the-board increase of 25% in Alberta, the government plans to raise fees for international students by as much as 300%.

The quality of education has certainly not risen accordingly. Fewer teaching assistants, shorter library hours and larger class sizes are some of the effects of the Alberta government's 11% ceiling on social service spending.

Rents are exempt from the controls. Although a number of provinces, including Alberta, have been forced to introduce rent controls, serious loopholes exist. Since most legislation depends upon tenants making complaints about unfair increases, students become prime targets for gouging by landlords. Students move a great deal. It is difficult to find out what previous rents were, and thus, with students, landlords have almost a free hand in demanding increases. Furthermore, because of the serious shortage of housing, landlords have more openly adopted "Take it or leave it" attitudes.

In recent months the cost of food has contributed significantly to a lowering of the rate of inflation. But food prices are not controlled by the AIB! The slower rates of increase for food have been caused primarily by low beef prices. Experts are predicting astronomical increases for beef when today's extremely high inventories become depleted.

The costs of many other essentials have risen — unhampered by the AIB. These include telephone rates, gas and lighting bills. Residence costs and book prices have not been controlled either.

How are students expected to pay for these increases? Traditional means of support have included summer jobs and student aid. This, however, is where wage controls and cutbacks have had a most devastating effect.

Many students had their first direct contact with the wage control programme this past summer. A vast majority of students work at lower-paying, non-union jobs. That is, those

jobs which have been most severely hit by wage controls. Salaries earned in the summer of 1976 were, for many students, the same as, or only marginally higher, than in 1975 — insufficient for keeping up with the cost of living, notwithstanding higher education costs.

Student unemployment in 1976 was the highest ever. At a rate of approximately 15%, this represents a rise of 3-4% over last year. Many potential jobs were eliminated when the federal government dropped Opportunities for Youth, Company of Young Canadians and the Local Initiative Programme. Thousands of students each year depended upon these programmes for employment.

The final result has been that students are entering this university year with substantially lower savings than in the past. One would expect, then, that the other traditional means of support, ie. student aid, would "pick up the slack." This has not been the case.

Provincial and federal governments continue to make student aid more restrictive and more expensive. In Ontario, which has a loan/grant system, the loan portion was increased by 25%. Now, the first \$1,000 received by the student is considered loan and must be repaid. In Alberta, all funds received through student aid are loans.

The wage control programme and subsequent cutbacks have made obtaining a post-secondary education in-

creasingly difficult. Yet Len Zoeteman has suggested that university students are not really affected by the controls!

Opponents of the day of protest maintain that graduating students become a part of management, a sector of the labor force least hurt by the controls. This argument is purely utopian.

The unemployment rate for recent graduates is twice the national average. Thousands of people now work at jobs which do not relate to their fields of study. Wage controls have done nothing to alleviate the problem of unemployment. There are 775,000 people out of work in Canada.

Universities and colleges provide research and the highly skilled labor force required by government and industry in this technological society. The federal government has cut back its allocation of funds for research and, in addition, government departments are moving towards stabilizing employment levels. Job availability is not matching the increase in the labor force, particularly for the more highly educated. The resulting unemployment is used to suppress wage demands, since employers can rely upon the large surplus of unused labor.

For protection of job security, skilled workers have seen the need to unionize. In recent years, there has been a marked increase in the number of "white-collar" unions, like teachers and medical workers.

The wage control programme is a frontal attack on the trade union movement. The government is moving to weaken unions so the surplus pool of labor may be more easily exploited. More than ever before, graduating students form that surplus.

Those graduates who do find jobs in their fields of study are discovering that pay scales do not meet expectations. Nor do pay scales meet their needs, in light of the enormous debts accumulated in acquiring higher education. In fact, it has been found that a four-year degree is less economic than directly entering the work force after high school.

Students are not an elite group in this society as some

would have us believe. Students' parents are often working people without the resources to entirely finance post-secondary education. Students must work to support themselves during their education and most can count on becoming full-time members of the labor force upon graduation (or after dropping out, many due to poverty). It is ludicrous to say that the fight against wage controls does not interest students. Oct. 14th represents a collective battle to maintain standards of living both now and in the future. It is also a struggle against the erosion of social services, including education. Students should join that fight and march with the labor movement on Oct. 14th. They have little to lose but much to gain.

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footnotes

October 12
Tuesday Lunch: Join us for the best lunch on campus, sponsored by the University Parish (Anglican, United, Presbyterian) every Tues, 12:30 to 1:30 in the Meditation Rm., SUB 158A. 50 cents for a mek-your-own sandwich, beverage; good conversation, focused in a quiet moment of Communion.

U of A Ski Club will be holding its annual general meeting at 7 p.m. in TL11. Ski films, equipment demonstrations, trip information and membership sales will be featured. Everyone welcome.

Hillel. There will be Israeli dancing for all interested students at 8 p.m. at the Hillcrest, 7200-156 St. For more information phone Yitzhak Roth at 487-0901.

Edmonton Opera Guild Fashion Show (Holt Renfrew Fashions). 2 p.m. afternoon, 8 p.m. evening, Edmonton Plaza Hotel \$2 afternoon, \$3 evening. Tickets available at Holt Renfrew, International Travel, EOA.

October 13
Edmonton Chamber Music Society. Cellist Laszlo Varga and Pianist Isobel Moore in the first of six concerts in this year's series at First Presbyterian Church, 10025-105 St. at 8:30 p.m. Season memberships at HUB Box Office, Dept. of Music. and Canadiana gifts, as well as at the door.

Agricultural Economics Club. Dr. Thomas Stout visiting Agricultural Economics professor from Ohio State will speak on "Beef Marketing Systems in North America." All interested most welcome to attend. In Rm. TL-12 at 7:30 p.m.

Early Childhood Education Council will be holding its introductory meeting from 4-6 p.m. in the 10th floor lounge, Ed. I. Topic for the evening is "The Trials and Tribulations of the Beginning Kindergarten Teacher. Chicken supper available for \$1. All invited.

Debating Society. We've moved to new premises. The next debating society meeting will be in the Education Bldg new wing 2-115, 7:30 p.m. Anyone welcome.

October 14
U of A Chess Club, first general meeting TB 39, 7:30 p.m. All new members welcome. Bring your own set. For more info, call Bill at 988-5333 before 9:30 p.m.

The Department of Religious Studies presents a series of noon-hour seminars titled Religious Diversity at 12 noon in Arts rm. 342. First seminar: New Thought Society, Mr. & Mrs. R. Darby. All interested students invited. Bring your lunch, tea and coffee provided.

October 15
Urban Reform Group Edmonton (URGE). "The Greening of Downtown" a minipark for Edmonton Project is a multimedia presentation

which is to be held in the music room of the Centennial Library. Any questions phone 432-3099 or 452-5368 or 435-8467.

Edmonton Chinese Christian Fellowship Bible Study Week, 7:30 p.m. in SUB Meditation Room.

General
U of A Rifle and Pistol Club is once again in operation. Present members and any others interested are invited to come to Eastglen High School Rifle Range Sat. 1-6 p.m. or phone 469-1402 for more info.

Notice of Student Vacancies on GFC Committees. A vacancy exists for one undergraduate student member who MUST be a member of General Faculties Council on the GFC Executive Committee. A vacancy exists for one undergraduate student member on the Academic Development Committee.

Found: Math 278 textbook by Paul Shields. Phone 452-5579 evenings, Amin.

Speaking comfortably to other people individually and/or in group settings (such as classrooms or social gatherings) is difficult for some people. Student Counselling Services is offering a course designed to assist students to develop confidence, increase comfort and practice skills applicable to such situations. Six Mondays, beginning October 18th, 1-2:30 p.m. Enrollment limit: 20 students. How: Come to SUB (5th floor) for registration and/or more information.

LSM holds informal vespers at the Centre 11122-86 Ave every Thursday evening at 9:30 p.m. Info 439-5787.

U of A Baha'i Club. All those interested in joining the Baha'i Club, please contact Shaku at 433-2746 as soon as possible.

From Oct. 5-21, the U of A Art Gallery & Museum will be exhibiting lithographs by Bonnie Sheckter. Also featured in October is an exhibition of prints from the U of A Permanent Collection. Gallery hours: Tues. Wed. 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thurs 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun. 2 - 5 p.m. Gallery is located in Ring House One. Public is welcome, admission free.

SLS Women's Project, Thursday Lectures. Oct. 7, Matrimonial property; Oct. 14, Custody, Access and Maintenance. 7:30 p.m. Rm. 113 Law Centre.

Student Help needs volunteers. For more information drop into Rm. 250 SUB or call 432-4266.

The Students' Union is offering photo-copying services at 5¢ a copy in the east hallway of the Students' Union Building. Unlike the Library system, the Students' Union will offer top quality IBM copies while not raising the prices. This is offered as a service to students of the university. Change can be obtained from the Information Desk. Tell your friends.!

Fall hours at the Grad House (11039 Sask. Drive) every Thurs will be 8 - 12 p.m. Enjoy the lowest prices for beer, wine, and liquor in friendly relaxed surroundings.

Christian Reformed Chaplaincy. Every Tues. at 12:30 in CAB339 there is an opportunity to eat lunch while studying the Bible together. These for this year's study the Vocabulary of John.

One Way Agape. Bible Studies 5:00 p.m. Prayer Meetings 7:15 a.m. Wednesdays rm. 289 CAB.

Newman Community mass times at St. Joseph's College Chapel; Sat. 7:30 p.m.; Sun. 9:30, 11:00, 12:30, 4:30 p.m. Mon.Wed.Fri. 12 & 4:30 p.m. Tues,Thurs 12:30 & 4:30 p.m.

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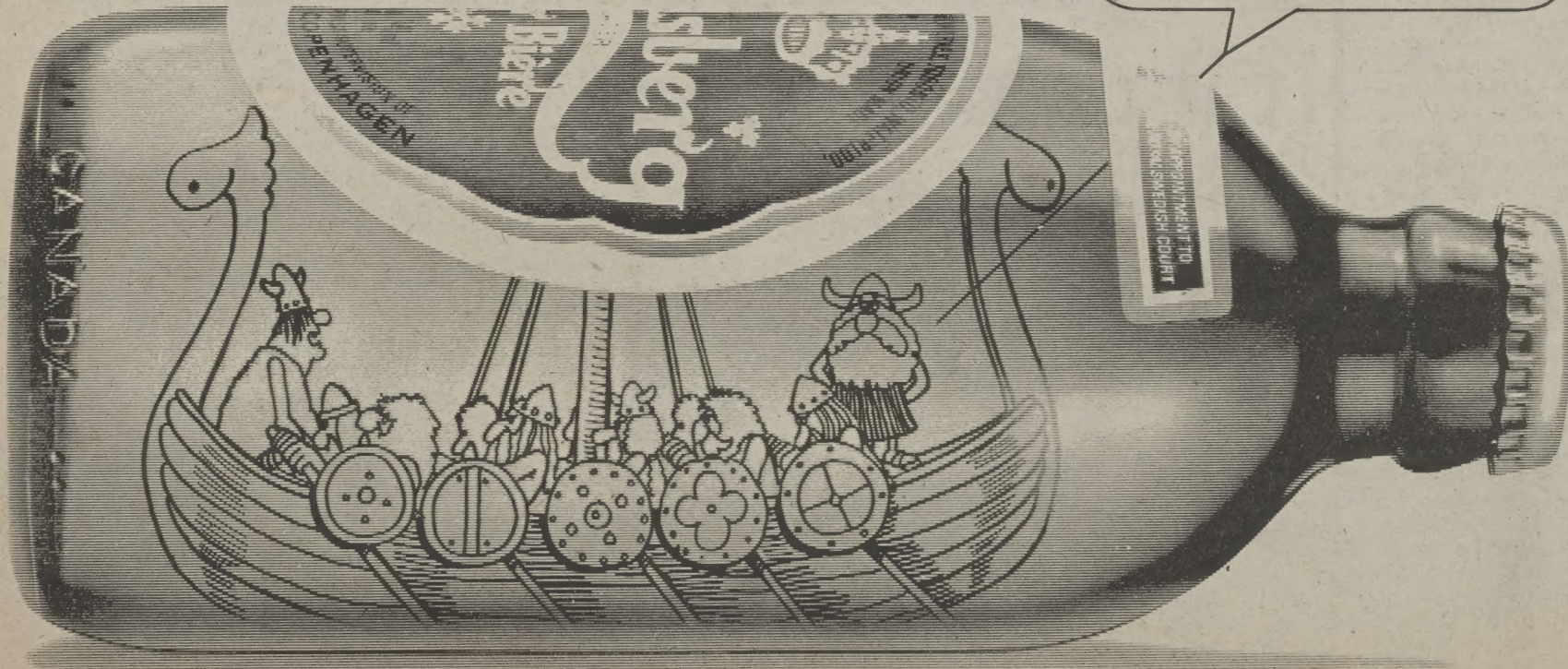
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